

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /043 W
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R 291440Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3285
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.9. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF LT WZ BC
SUBJ: US GRANT TO UNHCR FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES

REF: STATE 115235

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE USMISSION GENEVA'S THOUGHFULNESS
IN SENDING US A COPY OF SEPT 1, 1978 AGREEMENT
WITH UNHCR PROVIDING SUBJECT ASSISTANCE AND ITS
ATTACHMENT WITH OUTLINES PURPOSES OF THE GRANT.

2. WHILE WE ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES
AND GENERALLY WITH THE TERMS, THERE ARE SEVERAL
QUESTIONS THAT CAN PERHAPS BE RESOLVED BY INTERPRETATION.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE SWAZILAND'S (OR LESOTHO'S) REFUGEE PROBLEMS
ARE NOT OF THE SAME ORDER OF MAGNITUDE AS IN ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA,
APPARENT FAILURE TO INCLUDE SWAZILAND AS POTENTIAL RECIPIENT
OF ASSISTANCE IS CONTRARY TO OVERALL US POLICY
OBJECTIVES AND INTERESTS. THE LATTER INCLUDE USE OF PRESSURES
AND INCENTIVES TO IMPROVE GOS PERFORMANCE ON REFUGEE MATTERS.
BY NOT INCLUDING SWAZILAND ON LIST OF COUNTRIES FOR WHOM
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GRANT FUNDS CAN BE USED, WE ARE APPARENTLY REMOVING A KEY
INCENTIVE FOR USE WITH GOS IN BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE. THE RATIONALE
FOR MODEST ASSISTANCE TO SWAZILAND IS CONTAINED IN MBABANE
2563 AND PREVIOUS. AS EXPECTED, SWAZILAND PRESS HAS ALREADY
GIVEN BANNER HEADLINE TO REFUGEE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT AND GOZ
OMISSION ALONG WITH COMMENT OF PERMSEC IN DPM'S OFFICE (WHICH
IS IN CHARGE OF REFUGEES) THAT "SWAZILAND HAS IN MOST CASES

BEEN LEFT OUT" OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

SECOND, AGREEMENT (ATTACHMENT) SUGGESTS USE OF FUNDS TO "EXPAND FRANCISTOWN CAMP". SINCE THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF FRANCISTOWN PRECLUDES EXPANSION, WE WONDER WHAT THE AUTHORS MAY HAVE INTENDED, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER FUNDS COULD BE USED TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER CAMP SHOULD REPEAT SHOULD GOB DECIDE IT WAS REQUIRED.

THIRD, ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION OF DUKWE RESETTLEMENT CAMP COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS SINCE ASSISTANCE TO DUKWE WOULD HAVE TO BE BY INTERPRETATION RATHER THAN BY LETTER OF AGREEMENT. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF WE COULD HAVE BACKGROUND ON USG INTENTION IF ANY IN OMITTING MENTION OF DUKWE.

3. REPLY ASAP TO ABOVE QUESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED IN ORDER (A) TO RESPOND TO LIKELY SWAZI GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES AND (B) TO PROVIDE AUTHORIZED INTERPRETATION FOR UNHCR HERE. FYI. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, LOCAL UNHCR REP CAN PROFIT FROM BENEFIT OF OUR GUIDANCE.
NORLAND

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